

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling in-can pressure during thermal processing, comprising:

bonding a panel to an inclined seal surface of an annular component, the inclined seal surface of the annular component being initially at an angle of from 10° to 60°;

stretching the panel;

fixing the annular component and panel bonded thereto to a filled can;

processing the contents of the filled and closed can by heating to temperatures of up to 135°C; and

providing, at least during the processing step, a generally dome shaped profile to the panel so as to provide an increase in can volume approximately equal to thermal expansion of the contents and gases in any headspace within the can; and

reforming the seal surface to a shallower angle than the initial angle of the seal surface down to and including 0° after the processing step.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 6, further comprising stretching the panel into a beaded profile which matches the fibre length of the generally domed shaped profile provided during thermal processing.

8-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling in-can pressure during thermal processing, comprising:

bonding a panel to an inclined seal surface of an annular component, the inclined seal surface of the annular component being initially at an angle of from greater than 20° up to 60°;

stretching the panel;

fixing the annular component and panel bonded thereto to a filled can;

processing the contents of the filled and closed can by heating to temperatures of up to 129°C; and

providing, at least during the processing step, a generally dome shaped profile to the panel so as to provide an increase in can volume approximately equal to thermal expansion of the contents and gases in any headspace within the can; and

reducing the seal surface angle to a shallower angle than the initial angle of the seal surface after the processing step.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 16, further comprising stretching the panel into a beaded profile which matches the fibre length of the generally domed shaped profile provided during thermal processing.
18. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 16 wherein the inclined seal surface of the annular component is initially at an angle of from 20° up to 45°.
19. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 17 wherein the inclined seal surface of the annular component is initially at an angle of from 20° up to 45°.